

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of August 21-August 25, 2006**

1. **Takoma Park's Most Wanted:** The Saturday, August 26 broadcast of America's Most Wanted will include a segment on the May 2006 Flower Avenue homicide of Victor Dao. The segment will include surveillance video from a convenience store and interview with the case investigator Det. Cindy Conrad, with the hope that further leads will be generated to close the case. Patrol detention of suspects and investigators work have closed two other city homicides this year. *(Police)*

2. **The Crossing Guards:** Required in-service training for school crossing guards was held on Thursday, timed to coincide with the start of school next week. *(Police)*

3. **Police Recruiting:** Mr. Walter Smith, an experienced police officer, has been hired to fill a police officer vacancy. It is anticipated he will be sworn in and begin field training in early September. Last week's visit to Ocean City produced two successful candidates for police officer, who have entered the background investigation phase. Five certified officers sat for the entry oral board this week, with three passing to the background phase. Diana Dean will be returning to the Department as Victim/Witness Service Coordinator next week, working in the Support Services Division. *(Police)*

4. **Officers Giving a Helping Hand:** Sgt. Gilbert and Cpl. Smith of the COP Team took six residents from 7051 Carroll (seniors apartment building) to the MVA to obtain ID cards. *(Police)*

5. **Officers in Training:** CERT, or community emergency response training will be offered in November. Trainees attend seven classes over a three-week period with one all-day weekend practical and test day. County officials have indicated the class might be offered in the Takoma Park/Silver Spring area if enrollment warrants. Expression of interest must be made no later than October 1 to Buddy Daniels of the PSCAC at 301/270-5789 or Battalion Chief Brian S. Geraci at 240/777-2202 or Brian.Geraci@montgomerycountymd.gov. *(Police)*

6. **An Accident on Takoma Avenue:** On Wednesday, August 23, officers responded to a pedestrian struck in the 7500 block of Takoma Avenue (near the intersection at Fenton). The four-year-old Washington, D.C. girl was taken to a hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. Investigation revealed the child ran from between two parked cars into the path of a Toyota Matrix. The driver stopped and rendered assistance to the child, who apparently was running across the street after four other children who had been with her in a car, which her mother had just parked. It appears the collision did not involve factors such as excess speed or alcohol. *(Police)*

7. **Maryland Homeowner's Property Tax Credit Program (City Wide):** The deadline for filing for a tax credit under the Maryland Homeowners Property Tax Credit Program has been extended to October 31, 2006. Do you own a home in Takoma Park and have a combined gross income of less than \$60,000? If so, you may be eligible for a reduction in your property tax bill, thanks to a tax credit that is available to low and moderate-income homeowners. Even if you have applied before, you must apply every year. You can obtain the application form on the State of Maryland's website www.dat.state.md.us or call Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. *(Housing & Community Development)*

8. Maryland Renters Tax Credit Program (City Wide): The deadline for Maryland's Renters Tax Credit Program for Renters is coming Friday, September 1, 2006. If you are a renter in Takoma Park and you receive social security benefits or have a limited income, you may be eligible to receive a "rent rebate" under this program. For instance, if your total gross income for 2005 was \$10,000 and your rent was higher than \$117, then you may qualify for a refund. If your income for 2005 was \$20,000 and your rent was higher than \$544, again, you may qualify for a refund. To apply, you can obtain the application form on the State of Maryland's website www.dat.state.md.us or call Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. *(Housing & Community Development)*

9. Free Home Buying and Financial Fitness Programs (City Wide): Just a reminder that the City is sponsoring two free programs on "Financial Fitness" (How to Budget and Save) and First Time Home Buying. Both programs will be held in September and October. For exact dates, please see the Fall Recreation Guide or contact Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222 for further information. *(Housing & Community Development)*

10. New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Initiative - Update (Ward 2, 3, and 6): The City Manager and HCD Director met with the recently appointed Chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Board, Mr. Royce Hanson, this week to discuss the Council's interest in working with the Board to redevelop the New Hampshire Avenue corridor. Additional discussions are anticipated. *(Housing & Community Development)*

11. Now Accepting CDBG Applications (City-wide): The City of Takoma Park is accepting applications for its PY33 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The program provides on a competitive basis, resources for a variety of projects which benefit Takoma Park's low and moderate income residents. Applications - available on the City's web site - are due Monday, September 11, 2006. Funds would be available on or about January 1, 2008. For more information, please contact Sara Anne Daines at (301) 891-7224 or by email at SaraD@takomagov.org. *(Housing & Community Development)*